

CLAIMS

I/We claim:

- [c1] 1. A system for collecting and providing occupational information for use by consumers of occupational information, wherein at least some of the collecting and providing of occupational information is facilitated via a communication network, the system comprising:
- a network for facilitating communication between or among one or more aspects of the system;
 - a server computer connected, at least at times, to the network, the server computer comprising:
 - at least one data storage component storing information associated with a collection of occupational information;
 - an access component for providing access to the collection of occupational information via the one or more networks; and
 - a data collection component associated with collecting information for updating and maintaining the collection of occupational information by communication with other computers via the network;
 - a client computer connected, at least at times, to the network, the client computer comprising:
 - a client computer application including data associated with a collection of occupational information, wherein the client computer application provides an interface for a user of the client computer to access at least a portion of the data associated with the collection of occupational information, and wherein the client computer application collects user input

provided by the user of the client computer via the interface and transmits it to the server computer via the network; and
a processor for processing instructions associated with the client computer application; and
a peripheral server computer connected, at least at times, to the network, the peripheral computer includes a server application that provides occupational information to users of client computers via the network and collects occupational information from the users of client computers via the network.

[c2] 2. A method for collecting and providing occupational information, the method comprising:

providing occupational information via a plurality of access points, wherein the access points include access points associated with a client computer application and access points associated with a server computer application;
collecting data indicating an interest in a job or position by a user of the provided occupational information, wherein the collecting of data is associated with a user's access of the provided occupational information; and
incorporating the collected data into a job count, wherein the job count provides estimates of available jobs based on the collected data, and wherein the job count counts specific jobs and not job families.

[c3] 3. A method for providing and collecting information associated with a collection of occupational information, the method comprising:

providing a publicly available web site for users of occupational information, wherein the publicly available web site allows the users of occupational information to access information associated with the

collection of occupational information and to contribute information used to update the collection of occupational information;
providing access to information recently contributed via the publicly available web site, wherein the recently contributed information includes information contributed using questionnaire forms provided on the publicly available web site, wherein the questionnaire forms are configured for completion by the users of occupational information, and wherein user input associated with the completed questionnaire forms is used to update the collection of occupational information; and
updating the collection of occupational information based on receiving a submission of an at least partially completed questionnaire form.

[c4] 4. A computer-readable medium containing a data structure for use in a method for providing and maintaining occupational information, the data structure comprising:

a first set of work measures relating to stress induced by a specific occupation;
a second set of work measures relating to skills used in the specific occupation;
a third set of work measures relating to demands associated with the specific occupation; and
wherein each of the work measures in the first, second, and third sets is associated with standard deviation information.

[c5] 5. In a computer system, a method for maintaining a collection of occupational information, the method comprising:

collecting occupational data from a computer resource distinct from the collection of occupational information, wherein the computer

resource obtains occupational data from a user by a method comprising:

receiving a request for information from the user, wherein the information is associated with a specified occupation;

in association with receiving the request for information, requesting that the user provide occupational data about the specified occupation; and

receiving and storing the requested occupational data; and

updating the collection of occupational information using the collected occupational data.

[c6] 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the computer resource is a salary information resource and wherein the request for information from the user is a request for salary information.

[c7] 7. The method of claim 5 wherein the computer resource is a job availability resource and wherein the request for information from the user is a request for information about available jobs.

[c8] 8. The method of claim 5 wherein the computer resource is a career reporting resource and wherein the request for information from the user is a request for a career report based on information provided by the user.

[c9] 9. The method of claim 5 wherein the computer resource is a disability assessment resource and wherein the request for information from the user is a request for a disability estimate based on information provided by the user.

[c10] 10. In a computer system, a method for maintaining a collection of occupational information including descriptions of specific occupations, the method comprising:

providing end users with access to the collection of occupational information, including providing access to a questionnaire for receiving input from a user of the collection, wherein the questionnaire is for association with a specified occupation for which information is maintained in the collection of occupational information;

receiving the questionnaire from the end user;

analyzing the information in the received questionnaire;

providing the user with results of the analysis of the questionnaire; and

updating the collection of occupational information to include information extracted from the questionnaire.

[c11] 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the questionnaire is a job analysis questionnaire.

[c12] 2. The method of claim 10 wherein the questionnaire is a job analysis questionnaire and wherein the questionnaire is pregraded for the specified occupation.

[c13] 13. In a computer system, a method for maintaining a collection of occupational information to be accessed by users of the computer system wherein the collection of occupational information includes information for a plurality of distinct occupations, the method comprising:

receiving requests from end users to access information from the collection of occupational information, wherein each request is associated with

a specific occupation, and wherein each request includes information provided by an end user;
for each occupation in the plurality of distinct occupations, tracking the frequency of end user requests for information about the specific occupation; and
periodically updating the collection of occupational information, based on the tracking.

[c14] 14. The method of claim 13 wherein the information provided by the end user includes a title of a distinct occupation.

[c15] 15. The method of claim 13 wherein the information provided by the end user includes a date of employment.

[c16] 16. The method of claim 13 wherein the information provided by the end user includes geographic information.

[c17] 17. The method of claim 13 further comprising for each request, processing the request including generating one or more pages of information about the occupation to be provided to the end user.

[c18] 18. The method of claim 13 further comprising:
allowing for and tracking the submission of requests for occupations currently not included in the collection of occupational information;
and
periodically updating the collection of occupational information, based on the tracking of requests for occupations currently not included in the collection.

[c19] 19. The method of claim 13 wherein the updating includes removing from the collection occupations for which users do not request information during a given time frame.

[c20] 20. In a computer system, a method for providing information maintained in a collection of occupational information including information about multiple distinct occupations, the method comprising:

providing multiple search tools, wherein each of the multiple search tools can be used to identify occupations of interest within the collection of occupational information;

receiving from a user a selection of one or more of the search tools;

receiving criteria for each of the selected search tools;

searching the collection of occupational information based on the received criteria; and

providing results of the searching, including providing a list of one or more identified occupations.

[c21] 21. The method of claim 20 wherein the search tools include a job codes filter that provides user input fields for multiple job code types, and wherein the job codes filter is configured to identify occupations from the collection based on job code type.

[c22] 22. The method of claim 20 wherein the search tools include an interests filter that provides user input fields for individual interests of a user, and wherein the interests filter is configured to identify occupations from the collection based, at least in part, on interests.

[c23] 23. A system for providing occupation information, the system comprising:

means for collecting occupational information for multiple distinct occupations, wherein the collection of occupational information includes descriptive information for each of the multiple distinct occupations;

means for providing users with a selection to display specific aspects of each of the multiple distinct occupations; and

means for displaying information for selected aspects of each of the multiple distinct occupations.

[c24] 24. The system of claim 23 wherein the specific aspects of each of the multiple distinct occupations include an occupation description.

[c25] 25. The system of claim 23 wherein the specific aspects of each of the multiple distinct occupations include interests-based occupational information.

[c26] 26. The system of claim 23 wherein the specific aspects of each of the multiple distinct occupations include alternative occupations.

[c27] 27. The system of claim 23 wherein the specific aspects of each of the multiple distinct occupations include job availability information.

[c28] 28. The system of claim 23 further comprising means for displaying statistical information about data used in maintaining the collection of occupational information.

[c29] 29. The system of claim 23 wherein the specific aspects of each of the multiple distinct occupations include job statistics information.